World Bank Assistance for Prawn Culture in Orissa

*236. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has provided financial assistance for prawn culture in some States;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any grant for taking up prawn cultivation in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the region in that State where prawn cultivation has been taken up?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (c) A Brackishwater Shrimp and Fish Culture Project was negotiated for assistance with the World Bank during 25—27. November, 1991. The Project agreement will be signed after the Bank's final approval is received. The Project with a duration of 7 years is scheduled to be implemented in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal from 1992-93 onwards.

The shrimp culture component of the Project envisages development of about 3,810 ha. brackishwater land in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, out of which about 870 ha. will be in Orissa. The total estimated investment cost for this sub-project in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal is about Rs. 260.40 crore (US $ 87.3 million).

The Project in Orissa will cover three sites in the two coastal districts —Balasore and Cuttack, for shrimp farming involving an outlay of about Rs. 5'.67 crore.

Operation Blackboard Scheme

*237. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'Operation Blackboard' scheme introduced in 1986, is still continuing; and

(b) if so, the progress made in terms of targets set and achievements made in each State during the last three years. year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Operation Blackboard Scheme

The Central Government had launched the Scheme of Operation Blackboard in 1987-88 with a view to providing all primary schools existing as on 30th September, 1986 with the minimum essential facilities comprising: (i) an additional teacher in single teacher schools; (ii) two reasonably large all weather rooms, with a deep verandeh, alongwith separate toilet facilities for boys and girls; (iii) essential teaching learning material including blackboards, maps, charts, small library. toys and games and some equipment for work experience. Central assistance is provided for Teacher's salary and Teaching Learning Equipment. The State Governments/UT Administrations are responsible for locating funds for construction of school buildings. The Scheme envisages coverage of primary schools in all the blocks/ municipal areas in the country in a phased manner.

Initially, the target of the scheme was to cover 20 per cent blocks/ municipal areas during 1987-88. 30 per cent in 1988-89 and remaining 50 per cent during 1989-90. However, due to constraint on resources phasing had to be lengthened. In the period 1987-88 to 1990-91. the scheme could be implemented in 69 per cent of blocks in the country comprising 64 per cent primary schools. It is pro-